

Nichols Family To Show Award-Winning Angus At Farm Show

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
TYRONE (Huntingdon Co.) — "There are three things that have to get out of bed that morning — the person, the cow, and the judge. If they all line up, you're okay," said veteran Angus breeder and showman Donnie Nichols of Water Street near Tyrone.

Donnie, his wife, Karen, and sons John, 18, and Will, 12, represent the third and fourth generations to live and raise Angus cattle at Grand View Farm. They raise 35 registered Angus on 200 acres and show their award-winning Angus steers and heifers at local, regional, and national shows.

For the Farm Show this year, John will be showing two heifers and one bull, and Will plans to show a heifer and a bull. Although they've been showing Angus heifers at the Farm Show for many years, they showed steers for the first time last year.

"Except for the year I broke

my arm, this will be the fourth year I've shown at the Farm Show," Will said. "I like seeing what's new at the Farm Show. I like seeing the people I know and even a few people from school."

This will be John's sixth year showing at the Farm Show. "The Farm Show gives me experience showing cows. I like figuring out the new styles of fitting. I like seeing most of my friends from the association," John said. John serves as treasurer and Will as director of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association. John received the Outstanding Junior Member Award in 1998.

The Farm Show represents the first show of the year for the Nichols. The open breed show takes place Monday, and the 4-H and FFA junior and steer shows take place Wednesday, followed by the steer sale Thursday.

"We're just amazed at how many steers went to Hoss's Steak and Sea House last year," Karen said. "They bought both John's

and Will's steers last year and John's grand champion at the Huntingdon County Fair."

In March, the Nichols family will travel to the Pennsylvania Beef Expo in State College. They'll show at the Huntingdon County 4-H Beef Club preview show in May. In June, they'll take cattle to the Eastern Regional Junior Angus show this year in Tupelo, Miss., to compete against nearly 700 cattle. John earned first place in his steer class at a previous Eastern Regional show.

In July, they'll travel to the National Angus Show in Denver, Colo., a show that draws about 1,700 entries. August will find them back home showing at the Huntingdon County Fair, where John has, in the past, earned four grand champion and two reserve champion honors.



Will, left, and brother John Nichols, right, stand beside a wall full of show ribbons and champion and reserve champion banners. They'll be taking five Angus to the Farm Show this year.

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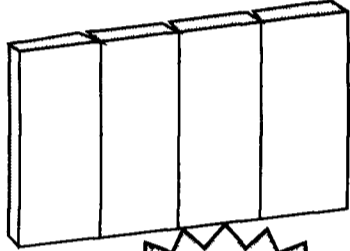
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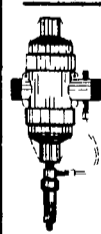
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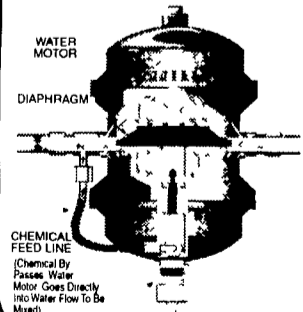


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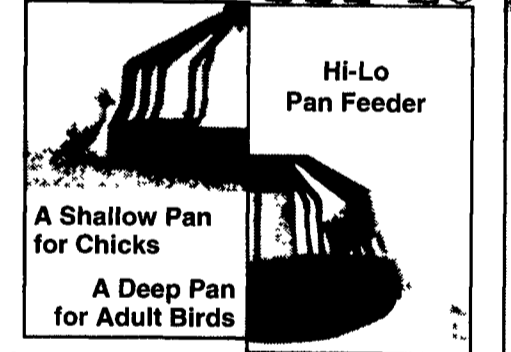
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